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Message Text

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53
ORIGIN EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSF-01 NSC-05

NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EPA/RD-651:HLWISER:TS
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:LGRANT
EPA/A-106:FGREEN
EPA/A-106:WLLOYD
EPA/A-106:DH TROTHER
EUR/CE:SSTEINER
OES/ENP/EN:JGBURKE
---------- 021790
P 041535Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, GW
SUBJECT: PROPOSED US-FRG ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIMEN BANK

FOR SCICOUNS MCCLELLAND

REFERENCE: STATE 218323, PARAS 3 AND 4

1. REQUE T EM6ASSY PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DR. H. L. WISER OF EPA TO DR. KORTE. WISER INDICATES NECESSITY OF TRANSMITTING BEFORE FEBRUARY SIXTH, AS KEY FUNDING DECISION RESTS ON CONTENT OF REPORT.

2. "FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIMEN BANK PROGRAM DEVELOPED AT JOINT WASHINGTON MEETING JANUARY 24:
PROPOSED PROGRAMS--
PREREQUISITE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL
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ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIMEN BANK (NESB) IS A DETAILED PLANNING

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DOCUMENT DESCRIBING OPERATION OF THE BANK ALONG WITH PROTOCOLS FOR SAMPLE COLLECTION, STORAGE, ANALYSIS, AND DATA STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL.
TO MEET THIS OBJECTIVE, THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS WILL BE INITIATED:
1) THE OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY (ORNL) WILL PROVIDE SEARCHES IN THE ECOLOGICAL DATA BASE OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM INFORMATION FROM THE

NATIONAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION SURVEY INITIATED IN JUNE 1974 AND TO BE COMPLETED IN MAY 1975 WILL BE INCLUDED. ORNL WILL ALSO PROVIDE CONSULTANTS TO THE NESB ON ECOSYSTEM MODELING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING METHODS.
2) IN THEIR SECOND YEAR OF EFFORT THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS (NBS) WILL CONDUCT STUDIES TO ESTABLISH A SAMPLING AND STORAGE PROTOCOL WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN TRACE ELEMENT INTEGRITY. IN ADDITION, ANALYTICAL METHODS FOR TRACE ELEMENTS WILL BE EVALUATED AS THEY APPLY TO SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL MATRICES. TENTATIVE PLANS FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOCOLS FOR SAMPLING METHODOLOGY, STORAGE TECHNIQUES, AND ANALYTICAL METHODS FOR ORGANIC COMPOUNDS. THE FIRST CLASS OF ORGANICS THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED ARE PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS WITH MOLECULAR WEIGHTS BELOW 500. WHEN PROTOCOLS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIAL WILL BE PRODUCED, ALLOWING OTHER LABORATORIES TO STANDARDIZE AND OPTIMIZE THEIR INVESTIGATION.
3) THE INSTITUT FUR OKOLOGISCHE CHEMIEDER GESELLSCHAFT FOR STRAHLEN UND UMWELTFORSCHUNG AND THE INSTITUT FOR OKOLOGISCHE CHEMIEDER TECHNISCHEN UNIVERSITAT MUNCHEN WILL FORMULATE PROTOCOLS FOR SAMPLING, STORAGE, AND ANALYSIS OF TISSUES FOR PRESENCE OF ORGANOHALOGEN COMPOUNDS.
AS SUSPECT COMPOUNDS APPEAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES, THE COMPOUNDS WOULD BE IDENTIFIED AND SYNTHESIZED FOR USE IN TOXICOLOGICAL TESTING. THE TOXICOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED THROUGH ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE INSTITUTE OF HUMAN AND COMPARATIVE TOXICOLOGY AT ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE, ALBANY, NEW YORK.
4) THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) WILL
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FUNCTION AS LEAD US AGENCY, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COORDINATION AND PLANNING OF THE NESB. THROUGH ITS EXPERIENCE WITH HUMAN TISSUE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, EPA WILL PROVIDE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROTOCOLS. IN ADDITION, EPA WILL PRODUCE A PLANNING DOCUMENT STATING DETAILED PROCEDURES REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A NESB. PURPOSE OF BANK IS TO PROVIDE CAPABILITY

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OF CONTINUOUS ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND TO ALLOW RETROSPECTIVE EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES. BANK WOULD SERVE AS A MONITORING SYSTEM, WITH TRENDS REFLECTING POLLUTANT DYNAMICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR ASSESSING EFFECTIVENESS OF POLLUTANT ABATEMENT MEASURES. BANK'S FLEXIBILITY WOULD ALLOW FOR THE DETECTION AND MONITORING OF NEW POLLUTANTS AS THEY ENTER INTO ENVIRONMENT.
BANK WOULD ALSO INSURE FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF SCIENTIFICALLY SELECTED SPECIMENS. AS NEW PATTERNS OF MORBIDITY

OR MORTALITY EMERGE THAT APPEAR TO CORRELATE WELL WITH POLLUTANTS, AN INVESTIGATION OF HISTORICAL SAMPLES WOULD CORROBORATE OR DENY THE PRESUMED CAUSE OF THIS CORRELATION. AS MORE SENSITIVE AND SPECIFIC ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES BECOME AVAILABLE, THE BANK WILL ENABLE DETERMINATION OF AMBIENT LEVELS IN SAMPLES COLLECTED BEFORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE POLLUTANT EXISTED."

3. FOR SCICOUNS: WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS OF RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 20 LETTER FROM GREEN TO BERG. EPA CONCERNED WITH MAINTAINING MOMENTUM OF US-FRG ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION. KISSINGER

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